

I strongly oppose the NAB Petition 04-160, as well as the actions of Representatives Charles Pickering and Gene Green in their proposed HR 4026 bill. As a subscriber to XM Satellite Radio, I depend on their Traffic and Weather services. I live in Petersburg, Virginia. I am employed under the Defense Department and work for the Defense Information Systems Agency in Arlington, Virginia. My daily commute to and from work is 262 miles (road trip) or 4 hours total travel time. Put another way, that's 10 hours (average) travel time per week or 1,310 miles (average) per week on the highway. Having said all that, I need the most accurate and up-to-date traffic and weather information when travelling along Interstate I-95. XM Satellite Radio provides the most real-time, up-to-date traffic and weather information, compared with the many regular local FM radio stations.

The actions on the part of the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) amount to censorship of services that are only now gaining tremendous popularity and pose a threat to their revenues. Even if XM (or SIRUS) Satellite Radio services were available to everyone (just as AM/FM radio), the NAB Petition and HR 4026 Bill are unjustified in their attempts to limit (control) of XM (and SIRIUS) Satellite Radio programming. But the fact remains that XM and SIRIUS Satellite Radio are "paid" choices of the one million (+) consumers around the United States. If anything, the NAB should come up with new innovative ideas of improving their services to the hundreds of millions of AM and FM listeners around the United States. Instead of mobilizing their lobbyists and business constituents against XM Satellite Radio, the NAB, Congress, and the FCC need to look at better ways of improving the beleaguered emergency communications services for the fire and law enforcement departments around the United States. In case they've forgotten, we're engaged in a global campaign against terrorism. And the anti-terrorism campaign is going to need "forward thinking" institutions and organizations at every level in the United States to assist in protecting our civil liberties and freedoms. The needs of the American consumer must be the driving force behind the NAB bottom line, and not their revenues.

Not everyone can afford a BMW, Mercedes, or Cadillac, so they settle for what they can afford. The car they settle for may not have the bells and whistles of the upscaled cars, but it still gets them from point A to point B. Likewise with XM (and SIRIUS) Satellite Radio services. Local AM and FM radio stations provide similar services to XM and SIRIUS Satellite Radio, but in a more generic programming format (i.e., weather, traffic, music, etc.). B.L.U.F. (Bottom Line Up Front): This is a matter of individual choice for the consumers.